United Nations E/2012/L.29

Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2012
New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda item 6 (b)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: review and coordination of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.12

Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly through its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, entitled "The future we want",

Recalling also its resolution 2011/9 of 22 July 2011 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 66/213 of 22 December 2011,

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2012 on the theme "promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the Millennium Development Goals",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011 to 2020;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment made by the international community in the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held at Rio de Janeiro to assist the least developed countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and also reaffirms the agreement to effectively implement the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] and to fully integrate its priority areas into the framework for action, the broader implementation of which will contribute to the overarching goal of the Programme of Action of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria of graduation by 2020;

3. *Expresses concern* that the ongoing impact of the economic and financial crisis demonstrates the need for appropriate regional and international support to be deployed in a timely and targeted manner to complement the efforts of the least developed countries aimed at building resilience in the face of economic shocks and mitigating their effects;

4. *Reaffirms* that building a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity, in agriculture, manufacturing and services, is essential if the least developed countries are to benefit from greater integration into the global economy, increase their resilience to shocks, sustain inclusive and equitable growth and eradicate poverty, achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

5. *Notes* the efforts made by the least developed countries towards full-employment and decent work for all and expresses its concern that, despite considerable efforts, they are yet to generate a sufficient number of decent jobs for their growing working-age populations, including because of the structural constraints of their economies, and in this regard encourages further action by the least developed countries to strengthen the productive capacities, as outlined in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and recalls the commitments made by the development partners in the Programme of Action to provide, inter alia, enhanced financial and technical support to the least developed countries to develop productive capacities, in order to support the efforts of the least developed countries to achieve structural transformation and generate full and productive employment and decent work for all;

6. *Stresses* the importance of undertaking policy measures on social protection in the least developed countries in order to achieve the goal of enhancing social protection systems to improve the resilience of all, including poor and disadvantaged groups, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and in this regard reiterates the commitments made by the least developed countries and their development partners in the Programme of Action;

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[3] A/67/88-E/2012/75.

7. *Welcomes* progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Programme of Action including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, and calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams, to actively support the integration and the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

8. *Also welcomes* the progress in mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

9. *Notes* that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, also notes that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to least developed countries, underlines the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 as well as the target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to least developed countries;

10. *Welcomes* steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid in least developed countries, and underlines the need for enhancing the quality of aid by strengthening national ownership, alignment, harmonization, predictability, mutual accountability and transparency, and results orientation;

11. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors, to fully and effectively implement the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, productive capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development, trade, commodities, human and social development, multiple crises and other emerging challenges, mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and good governance at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

12. *Also calls upon* the least developed countries, in cooperation with their development partners, to broaden their existing country review mechanisms,

including those for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the implementation of poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, and the existing consultative mechanisms to cover the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

13. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions and international and regional financial institutions, to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to integrate it into their programmes of work, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates, and to participate fully in its review at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

14. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

15. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

16. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decisions taken by various United Nations system organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the World Food Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, to mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action and integrate its relevant provisions into their work programmes, and in this regard invites the governing bodies of all other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies to do the same in an expeditious manner, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates;

17. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

18. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

19. *Notes* the work done by the ad hoc open-ended working group to further study and strengthen the smooth transition process for the countries graduating from the least developed country category;

20. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis on a priority basis by 2013 with the aim of establishing a technology bank and science,

technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, building on existing international initiatives;

21. *Underlines* the need to take the steps necessary to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering their commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action;

22. *Reaffirms* its decision to include in its annual ministerial review, in 2015, a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

23. *Reiterates* that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development;

24. *Strongly encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including those contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, in the processes devoted to the definition of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *Invites* the relevant United Nations regional commissions and agencies to undertake biennial reviews of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the first one of which to be undertaken in 2013, in close coordination with the global-level and country-level follow-up processes and in cooperation with subregional and regional development banks and intergovernmental organizations;

26. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and other donors to contribute to the Trust Fund[4] in a timely manner to support the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action as well as the participation of the representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review meeting on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council as well as in other relevant forums, and in this regard expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2013, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

[4] Trust Fund in support of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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Item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.20

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/69 of 11 November 2004 and 2011/23 of 27 July 2011,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] for the strengthening of international tax cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,[2]

Recalling the request to the Economic and Social Council made in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[3] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[4] to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[5]

Recognizing that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., para. 64.

[3] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, para. 16, and Assembly resolution 63/303, annex, para. 56 (*c*).

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enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters, including in the area of double taxation,

Recognizing also the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing within the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant subregional and regional organizations, and recognizing the need to promote collaboration between the United Nations and other international bodies dealing with cooperation in tax matters,

Welcoming the discussion in the Economic and Social Council on 15 March 2012 on international cooperation in tax matters,[6]

Taking note of the report of the Committee on its seventh session,[7]

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to implement the mandate given to it in Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69, and encourages the Committee to continue its efforts in this regard;

2. *Takes note* of the 2011 revised version of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries developed by the Committee, and its publication in the English-language version, and requests that:

(a) The Convention continue to be made freely available in downloadable form from the website of the Financing for Development Office of the Secretariat;

(b) The Convention be translated into the other official languages of the United Nations and published in those languages as soon as possible after the publication of the English-language version;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[8] and acknowledges the need for enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities on issues related to international cooperation in tax matters;

4. *Recognizes* the need for continued consultations to explore options with regard to the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including on the issue of the conversion of the Committee into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Emphasizes* that it is important for the Committee to enhance its collaboration with other international organizations active in the area of international tax cooperation, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

6. *Decides* to hold a one-day meeting in the first half of 2013 to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation;

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[6] See www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2012ICTM/index.htm.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 25* (E/2011/45).

[8] E/2012/8.

7. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue invitations to representatives of national tax authorities to attend the meeting;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on further progress achieved in strengthening the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations;

9. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Development Office in developing, within its mandate, a capacity development programme in international tax cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ministries of finance and the national tax authorities in developing countries to develop more effective and efficient tax systems, which support the desired levels of public and private investment, and to combat tax evasion, and requests the Office, in partnership with other stakeholders, to continue its work in this area;

10. *Stresses* the need for appropriate funding for the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to enable those bodies to fulfil their mandates;

11. *Reiterates*, in this regard, its appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.

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Agenda item 14 (g)
Social and human rights questions: human rights

Programme budget implications of draft resolution E/2012/L.24 entitled "Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Introduction

1. At its forty-seventh session in November 2011, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reiterated its concern at the persisting backlog of reports awaiting consideration. For that reason, the Committee has requested, in the form of a draft decision in its annual report (E/2012/22), one additional week per session during the period 2013-2014, as well as an increase in the composition of the pre-sessional working group (up to 10 members instead of the current five).

2. It is recalled that the same concern was expressed in the Committee's report on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (E/2011/22). By its decision 2011/279, the Economic and Social Council decided to further defer its consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on those sessions until the 2012 substantive session of the Council. The present statement of programme budget implications is submitted in connection with the provisions of draft resolution E/2012/L.24 in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council.

II. Requests contained in the draft resolution

3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution E/2012/L.24, the Economic and Social Council would decide to approve as a temporary measure, and without prejudice to the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the extension of the second annual session of 2013 of the Committee

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by one week and the first annual session of 2014 by one week, for a total of two extra weeks of meeting time, to be used for the consideration of reports of the States parties with a view to reducing the backlog, and approve the participation of up to 10 members of the Committee in both pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013, in order to prepare for the consideration of extra reports.

III. Relationship of the requests relating to the programme of work for the biennium 2012-2013

4. The activities to be carried out relate to Programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, Part B, Conference Services, Geneva; subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights treaty bodies, of Programme 19, Human rights, of the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013. They also fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 24, Human rights; and section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. Provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 for travel and per diem costs of the 18 members of the Committee to attend its two annual regular sessions of 15 working days each and, following each session, a five-day pre-session working group meeting of five members, as well as for substantive conference and support services to the Committee and the pre-session working group.

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

6. Provision of additional resources called for in the draft resolution, referred to in paragraph 3 above, would allow the Committee to consider a greater number of reports. At present, approximately 45 reports are pending consideration by the Committee. With the present Secretariat support, the Committee considers approximately 10 reports per year, spread over two sessions. An average of 18 new reports are received each year for consideration by the Committee. As a result, the Committee's backlog is not diminishing. The average time between the receipt of a report and its consideration by the Committee amounts to four years. The additional meeting time and related additional resources, requested in the draft resolution, would allow the Committee to consider approximately six additional reports per year.

7. Should the Economic and Social Council approve draft resolution E/2012/L.24, additional general temporary assistance resources would be required to provide for one P-3 position for six months, including four months in 2013 and two months in 2014. That entails research and analysis, assisting the Committee with the drafting of lists of issues and concluding observations, taking into account the jurisprudence of the Committee as well as of other international and regional bodies, assistance to the Committee's rapporteur, finalization of the final text as appropriate, and follow-up as required, as well as servicing the meetings of the respective Committee's session.

8. Additional documentation would be also required over the two-year period, comprising a total of an estimated 760 additional pages of pre-session and 90 pages of in-session documentation in the working languages of the Committee, and 90 pages of post-session documentation, respectively, in the official languages of the Committee, spread over the two sessions during 2013 and 2014.

9. The additional meeting time would not incur additional travel costs; however, an additional daily subsistence allowance for 18 members for an additional week would be required. Furthermore, a daily subsistence allowance would also be required for five additional participants in the pre-sessional working group, which currently consists of five members.

V. Estimated resource requirements

Conference-servicing requirements

10. It is estimated that additional conference-servicing requirements of $1,122,300 would arise, including $1,116,500 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $5,800 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of which: (a) the amount of $817,000 for 2013, including $814,100 under section 2 and $2,900 under section 29E, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013; and (b) the amount of $305,300 for 2014, including $302,400 under section 2 and $2,900 under section 29E, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

Non-conference-servicing requirements

11. It is estimated that a provision for general temporary assistance, equivalent to four work-months at the P-3 level, including $61,500 for 2013 and $30,800 for 2014, would be required. The amount of $61,500 would be required under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while the remaining provision for two months, amounting to $30,800, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

12. The additional amount of $69,300 per year would be required for a daily subsistence allowance of 18 Committee members for an additional week per session. The amount of $38,500 would be also required for a daily subsistence allowance of five additional members to participate in both pre-sessional working group meetings in 2013. Consequently, the amount of $107,800 would be required under section 24, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while the 2014 provision, amounting to $69,300, would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

13. In addition, an amount of $8,700, including $5,800 for 2013 and $2,900 for 2014, would be required under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

14. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/2012/L.24, the total additional requirements relating to the additional workload to eliminate a backlog of 12 reports cases would amount to $1,391,700, enumerated in the table below. The amount of $986,300 for 2013 would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The amount of $405,400 to provide for the

2014 requirements would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

	2012	*2014*	*Total*
	(United States dollars)		
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management			
Interpretation	58 300	58 300	116 600
Processing of documentation	755 800	244 100	999 900
Total	**814 100**	**302 400**	**1 116 500**
Section 24, Human rights			
General temporary assistance (6 months at P-3 level)	61 500	30 800	92 300
DSA for 18 members for an additional week per session	69 300	69 300	138 600
DSA for 5 additional members for one week pre-session twice in 2013	38 500		38 500
Total	**169 300**	**100 100**	**269 400**
Section 29E, Administration, Geneva			
Support services requirements	2 900	2 900	5 800
Total	**2 900**	**2 900**	**5 800**
Grand total	**986 300**	**405 400**	**1 391 700**

VI. Potential for absorption

15. No provisions to finance the above additional resource requirements of $986,300 for 2013 have been included under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, and it is not anticipated that those requirements could be met from within the resources of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

16. Consequently, should the Council adopt draft resolution E/2012/L.24, an additional appropriation of $986,300, including $814,100 under section 2, $169,300 under section 24 and $2,900 under section 29E, would be required over and above the resources approved for the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

VII. Contingency fund

17. It will be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditure were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing

activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

18. It is not possible, at this stage, to identify activities under sections 2, 24 and 29E of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 that could be curtailed, deferred, terminated or modified in order to meet the net additional requirement of $986,300. Although absorption is not foreseen at this time, the Secretariat will seek, over the coming months, to identify areas from which further resources can be redeployed to meet the requirements for the Committee in the biennium 2012-2013 and will inform the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session accordingly in the context of the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2012.

VIII. Summary

19. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft resolution E/2012/L.24, additional resource requirements in the total amount of $986,300 for 2013 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013, including $814,100 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $169,300 under section 24, Human rights, and $2,900 under section 29E, Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The amount of $405,400 for 2014 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

20. Additional amount of $8,700, including $5,800 for 2013 and $2,900 for 2014, would be also required under section 37, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

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New York, 2-27 July 2012
Agenda items 6 and 8

Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations

Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991, 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/285 of 29 June 2011 on the review of the implementation of Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling further its resolution 2009/29 of 31 July 2009, and its decisions 2010/252 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/216 of 22 July 2011 entitled "Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16",

1. *Notes* the note by the Secretary-General on periodicity and scope of future reports on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits;[1]

2. *Underscores* the need to implement General Assembly resolution 57/270 B as well as subsequent resolutions relevant to the integrated and

[1] A/67/82-E/2012/64.

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coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields;

3. *Calls upon* the functional commissions, regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies, within their respective mandates, to provide coherent support to the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields;

4. *Recalls* the commitment made at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, to strengthen the Economic and Social Council within its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations, as a principal organ in the integrated and coordinated follow-up to the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields and the recognition of its key role in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to present, within the framework of the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16, during the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly, a report with proposals for strengthening the Economic and Social Council, including its working methods, so it can effectively fulfil its functions, and giving special attention to the integrated and coordinated implementation of, and the regular and substantive follow-up to, the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, to be prepared in consultation with Member States and taking into account the contributions from its functional and regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies as appropriate.

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Item 13 (d)
Economic and environmental questions: human settlements

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.13

Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Acknowledging the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Also takes note* of paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 66/207 of 22 December 2011, in which the Assembly decided to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

3. *Further takes note* of the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

4. *Recognizes* the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, in improving the lives of slum dwellers, but expresses concern that there has not been enough progress to counter the growth

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2012/65.

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of slums in the developing world, that urban sprawl adds to the urban divide pushing social segregation in cities and suburbs, and that the overall reduction in the world's urban divide requires greater effort, since the absolute number of slum dwellers actually increased by over 50 million in ten years, and in this regard, stresses the need for Governments and development partners to redouble efforts to support plans and strategies at all levels to improve the lives of the urban poor across the developing world;

5. *Encourages* Governments to continue to support the work and existing cooperation of UN-Habitat, within its mandate and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, on issues related to cities and climate change, including its complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

6. *Encourages* Governments, according to their circumstances and capacities, to promote sustainability criteria in planning, construction and management for access to clean water and safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, urban and rural services, sustainable waste management, sustainable transport and disaster risk reduction;

7. *Further encourages* Governments at all levels and all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to promote the participation and access of people, in particular the poor, to policies, programmes and projects related to basic services including housing, in order to address the needs of rural and urban populations;

8. *Welcomes* the contributions of initiatives at all levels to mobilize investment for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services beyond current targets, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

9. *Emphasizes* that Habitat III and its preparatory process should take full advantage of planned meetings by aligning with the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and with the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, and encourages the regular regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings to support the activities of the preparatory process, taking into account that the Conference and the preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner;

10. *Encourages* the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels in preparations for Habitat III;

11. *Recommends* that the General Assembly adopt in a timely manner the modalities resolution of Habitat III, and in this regard, encourages the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations regional commissions and the functional and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, to actively support the preparatory process of the Conference, as appropriate;

12. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work on the strategic plan for 2014-2019 in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an open and transparent manner, setting realistic and achievable goals for the period it covers;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[3] and encourages UN-Habitat to move this process forward, in cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

14. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to adequately support the Programme in accordance with the mandate of the General Assembly;

16. *Invites* Governments to further promote sustainable cities and the role of local authorities in their national development policies and programmes and to consider the environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive and economically productive roles of cities in the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

17. *Decides* to transmit to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-seventh session the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its substantive session of 2013 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

[3] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.